

GM · POWERTRAIN

P1835

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1835 · GM

Kick-Down Switch

P1835 on a GM vehicle indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an implausible signal from the kick-down switch circuit, which is used to signal a forced downshift when the accelerator pedal is pressed fully. The PCM monitors the switch voltage and sets this code when the signal does not match expected values during key-on or driving conditions.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	GM specific	Low	Intermediate	Transmission

Symptoms you may notice

- The malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) illuminates on the instrument cluster.
- The transmission may not downshift when the accelerator pedal is pressed to the floor, reducing passing power.
- Harsh or delayed shifts may occur as the PCM substitutes default shift logic.
- In some cases, the transmission may stay in a single gear or enter limp mode.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the switch fails only intermittently.

Common causes, most likely first

- Faulty kick-down switch located at the accelerator pedal assembly.
- Wiring harness damage (open, short, or chafed wires) between the switch and the PCM.
- Corroded or loose electrical connector at the switch or PCM.
- Misadjusted or sticking accelerator pedal mechanism preventing proper switch actuation.
- Failed PCM (rare, but possible after other causes are ruled out).

How to diagnose and fix it

- Connect a scan tool and verify P1835 is current; record freeze-frame data and check for other codes.
- Inspect the kick-down switch connector and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins; repair as needed.
- Test the kick-down switch operation with a multimeter: check for continuity or voltage change when the pedal is pressed to the floor.
- Check switch adjustment per GM service information; adjust or replace the switch if it does not actuate correctly.
- Clear the code and perform a road test to see if it returns; if it does, backprobe the PCM connector to check signal voltage directly.
- If wiring and switch are good, substitute a known-good PCM only after confirming all other circuits are intact.



Kick-down switch faults often misdiagnosed

- A sticking or misadjusted accelerator pedal can mimic a bad kick-down switch, so always verify pedal travel and switch actuation before replacing parts.
- The kick-down switch circuit often shares a ground or reference voltage with other sensors; a fault elsewhere can set P1835 as a ghost code.
- Intermittent P1835 codes frequently trace to chafed wiring near the pedal assembly where the harness flexes with pedal movement.
- Some GM vehicles use a kick-down switch integrated into the accelerator pedal position sensor; a failing APP sensor can set P1835 without a separate switch.
- Do not replace the PCM until you have load-tested the switch circuit and confirmed the signal at the PCM connector.

Can I keep driving with P1835?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the kick-down function only affects passing power and the PCM defaults to normal shift patterns. Avoid full-throttle downshifts until repaired, and address the code promptly to prevent transmission wear from improper shift logic.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Wire probe set
- GM service information (for switch adjustment specs)
- Basic hand tools

Reading P1835

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (GM): its meaning depends on the make.
- 8** Transmission.
- 35** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1834 Pressure Control Solenoid 5 Open Short To Ground · **P1836** Kick-Down Switch Failed Open · **P1834** Transmission Transfer Case Differential Lock-Up Solenoid Sho · **P0700** Transmission Control System Malfunction · **P0705** Transmission Range Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **P0715** Input/Turbine Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Won't Start? Step-by-Step No-Start Diagnosis](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/gm-p1835/>

